lakhs of rupees published by the Department of Environment during the past three years for distribution throughout the country are lying unused and that most of these posters have been damaged;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof stating the reasons for non-distribution of these posters and the estimated loss likely to be incurred as a result thereof; and

(c) what remedial steps have been taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI VIR SEN): (a) and (b) Department of Environment has brought out 2,80,000 posters during the World Environment Day (1983) and (1984). These have been distributed to various agencies all over the country and the balance at present with the Department are only 12,000. No posters have been damaged. The Wild Life Wing of the Department of Environment, which has since become part of the Department of Forests and Wild Life, had brought out 2,80,000 posters. Of these, 1,45,800 are in stock and in good condition. No loss is to be incurred. The posters are being regularly distributed to various user agencies throughout the year.

(c) The remaining posters are being supplied regularly to various agencies for their use. Besides, the Department of Forests & Wild Life proposed to utilise a large number of these posters during the ensuing Wild Life Week in October, 1985.

Effects of pollution on Taj

346. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the Taj has been effected by pollution and it is feared that it may lose its originality during the next few decades;

(b) whether Government propose to constitute a committee in this regard;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the details of the latest measures adopted by Government to save the Taj?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI VIR SEN): (a) There is no conclusive scientific evidence to this effect.

(b) Department of Environment Government of India has a Standing Committee for monitoring pollution abatement measures in Agra-Mathura Region.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The measures taken are :—

(i) An area in Agra-Mathura Region has been identified as a protection zone where location of polluting industries is not permitted.

(ii) The foundries and other polluting industries have been advised to restrict their activities particularly during winter months.

(iii) A green belt has been raised around Taj.

(iv) Research studies have been commissioned for reducing emissions from the foundries through improvisation in the design of cupolas, use of chemical coke and installation of gas scrubbera Studies have also been commissioned to investigate the effect of environmental parameters on the marble.

(v) Five monitoring stations have been set up to check the ambient air quality in the area.